

comprising the step of transferring and depositing the shaped label onto a male portion of a mold by movable gripping means.

16. (new) The method recited in claim 15, wherein the shaped label has a thickness less than or equal to 50 microns and the gripping means is a pneumatic gripping means.

17. (new) The method recited in claim 15, wherein the transferring step comprises the steps of:

storing the shaped covering labels in a stack of a magazine;

extracting a label from the stack; and

unflattening the label extracted from stack prior to transferring the label to the mold.

18. (new) The method recited in claim 15 wherein a plurality of labels are transferred simultaneously to the gripping means.

19. (new) The method recited in claim 15, wherein the transferring step further comprises the steps of:

engaging a portion of the shaped label around a mold core; and

placing the label around the mold core with use of a thrusting member.

~~20. (new)~~ The method recited in claim 15, further comprising the step of shaping the label by sealing together two edges of the label.

~~21. (new)~~ The method recited in claim 15, wherein the labels comprise paper.

~~22. (new)~~ The method recited in claim 15 wherein the labels comprise polypropylene.

~~23. (new)~~ An apparatus for injection molding a receptacle, comprising:
a mold having a male portion and a female portion for molding the receptacle and operable to receive a covering label from a group of covering labels that will be interfaced to the receptacle wherein the label comprises at least two edges that have been joined together; and
a transfer element for gripping the label and depositing the label on the male portion of the mold.

~~24. (new)~~ The apparatus recited in claim 23, further comprising:
a magazine for storing the group of labels in stack wherein the group of labels have been flattened in the stack; and
an element for shaping the covering label from the flattened state to an unflattened state.

25. (new) The apparatus recited in claim 24, further comprising:
an element interfaced with the magazine for expanding the flattened label;
and
a pneumatic element in communication with the element for expanding the flattened label for gripping the expanded, flattened label by contacting an outside face of the label.

26. (new) The apparatus recited in claim 25, wherein the pneumatic element further comprises a moving transfer support element comprising a plurality of elements for holding the shaped and expanded label and for transferring a plurality of labels simultaneously into a multi-cavity mold.

27. (new) The apparatus recited in claim 26, wherein the moving transfer support element further comprises a plurality of cells each operable to receive a portion of an expanded label.

28. (new) The apparatus recited in claim 27, further comprising a robot operable to move the moving transport support element relative to an axis of rotation and an axis of translation.

29. (new) The apparatus recited in claim 28, further comprising:
an element for engaging the expanded label in part of the mold core; and